

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL SEED HEALTH SYSTEM

APHIS 2014 PROGRAM REVIEW

National Plant Board Annual Meeting
July 31, 2014

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

REVIEW HISTORY

In 2010 APHIS and the National Plant Board jointly reviewed the National Seed Health System (NSHS).

That review identified major deficiencies, areas for improvement, and also recommended solutions.

In April 2014 APHIS initiated an internal review of the National Seed Health System for the purpose of **providing a response** to the 2010 joint review.

A temporary detail assignment was used to complete the work.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

2014 APHIS REVIEW

The 2014 review was based on the findings reported in the 2010 review.

The first step was to determine what improvements had been made since that time, and what was still needed.

All stakeholders were contacted for input including:

- Current NSHS participants
- Seed industry representatives (ASTA)
- Regulators (National Plant Board)
- Individual state cooperators
- NSHS Administrative staff
- APHIS program manager

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

2014 NSHS STATUS

Some improvements have been made since the 2010 joint review:

Grant funds were used to hire a temporary person in the Administrative Unit. This increased test method approval time and the quantity of approved tests.

The pool of auditors was increased which improved audit scheduling issues.

APHIS developed and provided audit training to NSHS auditors which improved consistency.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

2014 APHIS REVIEW

There remain areas identified in the original 2010 joint review which still need improvement.

Some are major issues, like the need for **additional funding sources**.

Some are minor issues, like **revising the audit checklist**.

A final written report will be provided in response to the 2010 joint review.

The report will address all the outstanding issues in detail and suggest possible solutions.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

2014 APHIS SUPPORT

The NSHS is an accreditation program that meets the APHIS strategic goals of safeguarding U.S. agriculture and facilitating trade.

The peer reviewed testing methods that are approved for use in the NSHS safeguard seed exports.

The option for private companies to be accredited to perform export certification functions facilitates trade by streamlining the process and reducing costs for industry.

APHIS has supported this program over the years and will **increase support** in the future.

 United States Department of Agriculture **APHIS Priorities for NSHS**

- Increase financial support through a dedicated full-time APHIS position.
- Work with industry to secure additional funding source(s).
- Audit the program more frequently. (include NPB in future audits)
- Provide an official written report response to the 2010 joint review. (2-3 months)
- Engage the NPB and industry in discussion for program improvement.
- Increase participation through targeted outreach.

 United States Department of Agriculture

QUESTIONS ?